

REMARKS

Claims 1-25, 28-30, 32 and 34-36 are all the claims pending in the application.

The specification has been amended to more clearly define the shape of the recess and the shape of the post inserted therein as shown in the embodiment of Figure 6. Claim 23 which was rejected in the last Office Action has also been amended to more clearly define the shape of the recess in the interior of the welt flap. Claim 23 now specifically sets forth that “the recess is in the interior of the welt flap and the recess has an enlarged central portion”. Therefore it is respectfully submitted that Claim 23 which is dependent from an allowed claim is now allowable. Claims 31 and 37 have been canceled without prejudice in order to advance the prosecution of the present application. Since only allowable claims remain in the application, it is respectfully requested that Claims 1-25, 28-30, 32 and 34-36 be allowed and the application passed to issue forthwith.

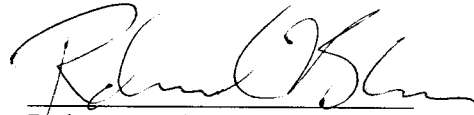
If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application on the next Office Action and feels that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the purpose of arranging such an interview.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
USSN 10/673,573
Attorney Docket Q77779

Group Art Unit 1772
May 8, 2006

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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